

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

*This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.*

### **LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) An injection needle comprising a puncture section having a needle point capable of piercing a living body, a proximal end section having outside and inside diameters greater than said puncture section, and a tapered section interconnecting said puncture section and said proximal end section, wherein

said proximal end section possesses an outside diameter ranging from 0.35 mm to 1 mm,

said puncture section possesses an outside diameter ranging from 0.1 mm to 0.5 mm,

the length from said puncture section to said tapered section ranges from 0.2 mm to 15 mm;

the length of said tapered section ranges from 1.5 mm to 10 mm;

the total length of said puncture section, said proximal end section and said tapered section to be inserted in the living body ranges from 5 mm to 40 mm;

said tapered section possesses an outer profile forming an angle ranging from 0.5 degree to 1 degree and 20 minutes with respect to a line parallel to a central axis of the injection needle, and

said tapered section provides puncture resistance smaller than said puncture section, and

a puncture resistance at the puncture section is 7 gf or less.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The injection needle according to claim 1, wherein said tapered section has outer and inner profiles each having a tapered structure.

4. (Currently Amended) A liquid introducing instrument for being mounted on a liquid inlet port formed on a distal end of a liquid container that is capable of holding a liquid therein, comprising:

an injection needle having a puncture section having a needle point capable of piercing a living body, a proximal end section having outside and inside diameters greater than said puncture section, and a tapered section interconnecting said puncture section and said proximal end section, wherein

said proximal end section possesses an outside diameter ranging from 0.35 mm to 1 mm,

said puncture section possesses an outside diameter ranging from 0.1 mm to 0.5 mm,

the length from said puncture section to said tapered section ranges from 0.2 mm to 15 mm,

the length of said tapered section ranges from 1.5 mm to 10 mm;

the total length of said puncture section, said proximal end section and said tapered section to be inserted in the living body ranges from 5 mm to 40 mm;

said tapered section ~~possess~~possesses an outer profile forming an angle ranging from 0.5 degree to 1 degree and 20 minutes with respect to a line parallel to a central axis of said injection needle, ~~and~~

a puncture resistance at the puncture section is 7 gf or less, and

said tapered section provides puncture resistance smaller than said puncture section; and

a base body supporting said injection needle,

wherein said puncture section and said tapered section protrude from said base body.

5. (Original) The liquid introducing instrument according to claim 4, wherein said injection needle has a liquid introducing needle section that can communicate with the interior of said liquid container.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) The injection needle according to claim 1, wherein the proximal end section includes a second needle point.

8. (Previously Presented) The injection needle according to claim 1, wherein the puncture section comprises a facet, the facet having a first ground angle with respect to the central axis.

9. (Previously Presented) The injection needle according to claim 8, wherein the first ground angle is 8.5 degrees.

10. (Previously Presented) The injection needle according to claim 9, wherein the facet comprises a slanted portion, the slanted portion having a second ground angle with respect to the central axis.

11. (Previously Presented) The injection need according to claim 10, wherein the second ground angle is 18 degrees.

12. (Previously Presented) The injection needle according to claim 1, wherein a cross-sectional angle formed between ridges of a cross-section of the needle point is 129 degrees.

13. (Previously Presented) The liquid introducing instrument according to claim 4, wherein the proximal end section includes a second needle point.

14. (Previously Presented) The liquid introducing instrument according to claim 4, wherein the puncture section comprises a facet, the facet having a first ground angle with respect to the central axis.

15. (Previously Presented) The liquid introducing instrument according to claim 14, wherein the first ground angle is 8.5 degrees.

16. (Previously Presented) The liquid introducing instrument according to claim 15, wherein the facet comprises a slanted portion, the slanted portion having a second ground angle with respect to the central axis.

17. (Previously Presented) The liquid introducing instrument according to claim 16, wherein the second ground angle is 18 degrees.

18. (Previously Presented) The liquid introducing instrument according to claim 4, wherein a cross-sectional angle formed between ridges of a cross-section of the needle point is 129 degrees.

19-22. (Canceled)